



JUNE

Monthly Patch Program

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

Wilma Mankiller

“The most fulfilled people are the ones who get up every morning and stand for something larger than themselves. They are the people who care about others, who will extend a helping hand to someone in need or will speak up about an injustice when they see it”

Wilma Pearl Mankiller was an American Cherokee activist, social worker, community developer and the first woman elected to serve as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

Complete 3-Daisy, 4-Brownie, 5-Junior, 6-Cadette, and 7-Senior/Ambassador steps to earn your patch.

All monthly patches are custom designed patches. Once we get the final number of patches after the 15th of each month, we place an order. Patches take about a month to create and then we mail them to you.

Order patch on-line by **July 15th, 2021** at www.getyourgirlpower.org

Discover

1. Learn more how Wilma changed the world. Go to the library and read a book about Wilma or discover whom she is online. How did Wilma changed the world?



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2. Wilma was born to a Cherokee father and was a proud member of the Cherokee tribe. Discover more about the Cherokee tribe. Discuss your thoughts and share your findings.
3. The Cherokee people are intelligent and peace-loving. Wilma has had a part in this through her work. Another important person of the Cherokee tribe is Sequoyah. He created the first written language of any Native American tribe. Research Sequoyah's work. How long did it take Sequoyah to create the syllabary? What doors were opened to the Cherokee people by being literate in their written language? What language does the Cherokee tribe speak? Learn some phrases and teach your troop.

Connect

4. Wilma stated, "A significant number of people believe tribal people still live and dress as they did 300 years ago. During my tenure as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, national news agencies requesting interviews sometimes asked if they could film a tribal dance or if I would wear traditional tribal clothing for the interview. I doubt they asked the president of the United States to dress like a pilgrim for an interview." Do you think most Native Americans live and dress in traditional tribal clothing? Have you ever assumed someone spoke or dressed a certain way? Discuss with your troop what this quote means. Do you believe discrimination is still happening today? What can be done to change this? Do you think it is acceptable for others to dress like Native Americans?
5. Wilma wrote a book called *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People*. Each chapter of the book begins with a Cherokee myth or legend representing a core attitude in the Cherokee culture. Throughout the



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Book, Wilma narrates Cherokee and Indian history, their struggles with European conquest and their struggle to maintain their cultural identity and society. Wilma's story is from the story of her people. Learn more about the Cherokee legends and share a myth or legend with your troop. Ask someone in your family if there is a myth or legend your family has. Write the myth or legend and share it.

6. When Wilma was 12 years old, her family was uprooted and moved from their homeland in Oklahoma to San Francisco. This is the event that most affected her in regards to relating with Native Americans who were involved in The Trail of Tears. Wilma was a strong advocate for her people and their rights which had been repressed for so many years. If Wilma were alive during The Trail of Tears, she would have been involved in the protest of it. Write a letter to President Andrew Jackson in favor or not in favor of the Indian Removal Act. Be sure to include the time frame in their letters, as it will be written as if you were living in the year of 1830.
7. Wilma became Deputy Principle Chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1983 on the strength of her reputation as a community leader. When the Principle Chief resigned in 1985, Wilma became the first female Principle Chief of the modern Cherokee Nation, the second largest tribe in the United States. In 1987 Wilma Mankiller ran for election as the Principle Chief. Her car was vandalized and her safety was threatened, but she relied on her knowledge of Cherokee and Indian culture for her confidence in the ability of women to lead the tribe. In traditional Cherokee culture, women played a vital role in the social and political life of the tribe. If you were a politician, what would you stand up for? What would you change in the world or your town? How would you use your voice? Create a campaign poster or video.



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8. The Cherokee people are known for basket weaving. There is a lot of information on the process. Learn about the process and try to create a basket yourself. Be creative and use alternative materials.

Take Action

9. Take care of the land you live on. Discuss what you can do to improve the recycling efforts at your home and school. Collaborate with your troop on activities which would help their school recycle. Possibilities include: a newsletter, posters, recycling containers for the cafeteria, an assembly, talk to the principal or dean, or create a play which would be put on for other classrooms or parents.
10. As chief, Wilma focused on education, job training, and healthcare for her people. She was a consensus builder, working with the federal government to pilot a self-government agreement for the Cherokee Nation and with the Environmental Protection Agency. Create a way you can help the Cherokee tribe. Are there community services you can volunteer at? Is there a project the community is working on that you can contribute to? Take action and participate.
11. How can you better the environment? What are humans doing that is destroying our world? What are some ways we can help combat this problem? Who are some people you know who help combat this problem and in what ways are they helping? What can girls in Girl Scouts do to help better our world? Identify three ways we can help preserve nature, and then go out and save the planet!